

Searching for the Father of Frank Kimble (1880-1948)

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Summary:

We have never been able to identify the father of my grandfather, Frank (Francis) Kimble. The following discussion of how using an analysis of historical records and a significant number of recent matches of autosomal DNA leads me to the conclusion with more than 95% confidence that the father of Frank Kimble is a member of the **Michael Rex family**. More information on the Michael Rex family is in the appendix. Furthermore, it is highly probable that his son, **Daniel Henry Rex**, is the father, although we need to continue evaluating other data as well as any subsequent developments.



Frank Kimble was born on 15 June 1870 in Tod Township, Crawford County, Ohio. His mother, Anna Marie, was the oldest child of Nicholas Kimble and Sarah Jane Billings. Anna Marie was born on 28 August 1851. She married William Carson Scott in 1872 and had 8 additional children.

In 1880 Frank (Francis) was living with his grandparents, Nicholas and Sarah, along with seven of their children.

On May 18, 1892 Frank married Clara Mable Goddard, who was born on 30 September 1872, in Hardin County, Ohio. Over the next 17 years they had six children, the youngest of whom was my mother, Anna Laura.

Frank and Clara lived on a farm, about three miles east of Ada, Hardin County, Ohio. Frank died on January 16, 1948 at the age of 77.

DNA Clues

Several years ago I took an AncestryDNA autosomal test and have been reviewing results ever since. As DNA testing has become more popular, my two sisters and at least 8 other descendants of Frank and Clara have taken the AncestryDNA autosomal test. Four of the six children of Frank and Clara are represented. In 2013 I took the FamilyTree DNA Y Chromosome test, and also transferred my AncestryDNA results to FTDNA when that option became available. I also transferred my data to Gedmatch and more recently to MyHeritage.

Over the years I have explored surnames with several matches. About three years ago, I corresponded with an individual with whom I shared a match of more than 100 cM on FTNDA. In exchanging messages, one of the surnames she mentioned from her family was REX. Searching on that name over the past three years, I identified several matches who had REX in their online trees, but with whom I could not make a connection to my tree.

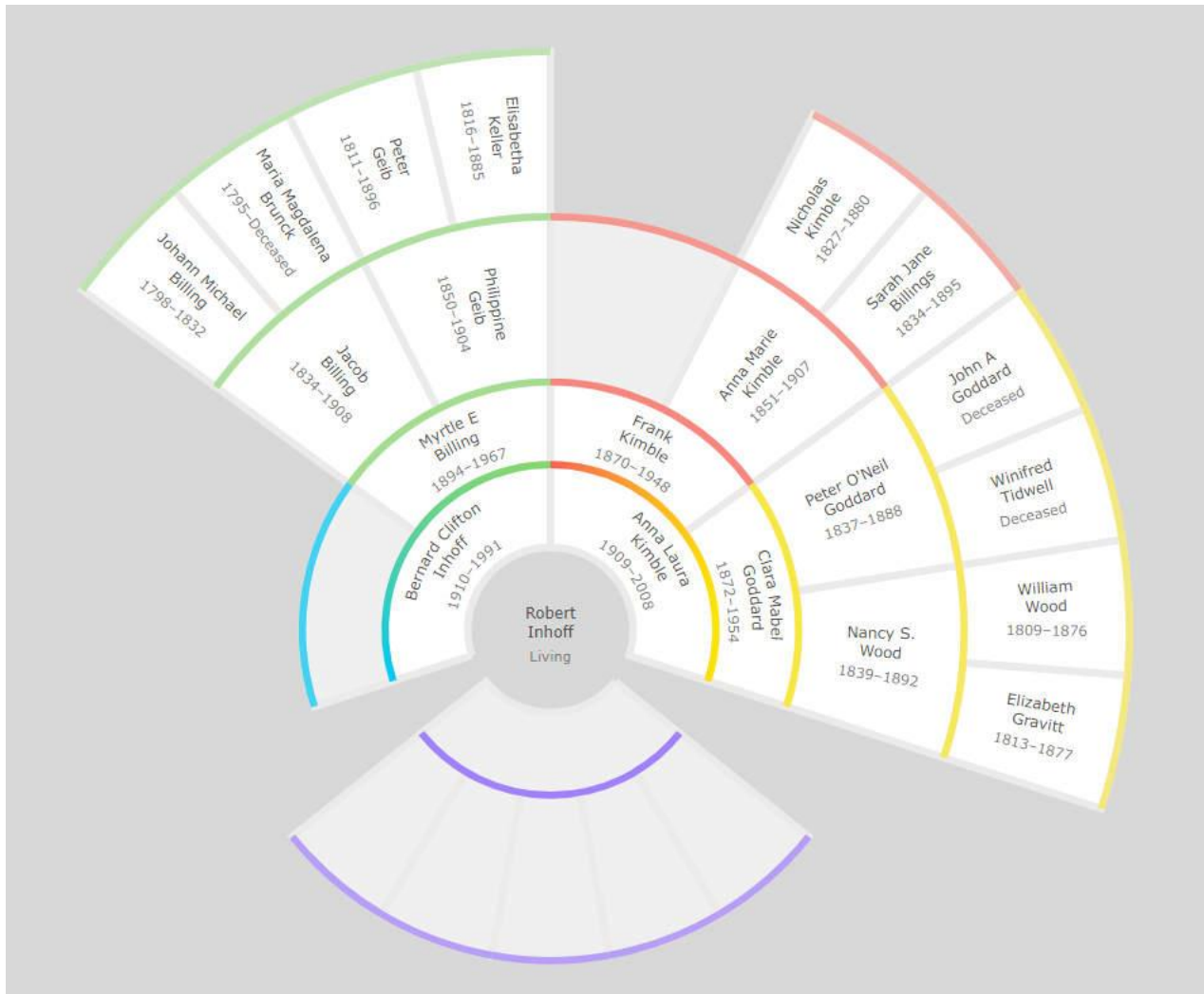
Within the last few months there has been a significant increase in the number of AncestryDNA matches, including those with a REX family line matching to me. In April 2018 a search of my DNA

matches with the surname REX in an online family tree provided a list of 22 names. Many other matches share similar profiles but have no family tree on Ancestry.com.

Cousin Matches

To find the place where these matches fit into my family tree, we can look at who else shares a match with the individual match we are evaluating.

In my family tree my Kimble cousins will share matches with those on the right side on my tree (red and



yellow). They may match with my grandmother's ancestors (Goddard-Wood) – the yellow area or Anna Kimble and her ancestors (red). I may also share matches with my Kimble cousins, matches which do not have any shared matches with the yellow or red areas.

These matches with other Kimble cousins that do not match any identified Goddard-Wood cousins or Anna Marie Kimble relatives are potential matches for relatives of Frank Kimble's unidentified father. My REX family matches meet these criteria.

Family Tree and Record Searches

A DNA match alone cannot prove a relationship at this level. We need other evidence that a prospective family member's ancestor was in the same place at the same time. Since Frank Kimble was born in Crawford County, Ohio in June 1870, the first logical step is to see if we can find REX families in the same area in 1870. A search of the 1870 census for Crawford County shows three REX families in the county. I started a new Ancestry Family Tree – called the Rex Family of Crawford County Ohio – to begin building out these family trees to see if I could find a connection to online family trees of my REX matches. I was not successful in making the connection. A search of my REX DNA matches with online trees for those who had family in Crawford County, Ohio showed that none had REX family members in the county in 1870.

In looking at one of my REX matches with a family tree with a Crawford County connection, I observed that this individual, Josiah Rex, lived in Tod Township, Crawford, Ohio in 1860 but not 1870. Tod Township is where Frank Kimble was born 10 years later. In 1870 Josiah Rex, his parents, Michael and Margaret Rex and other children lived in Wyandot County. An examination of the census record



indicated that they lived in Antrim Township, with a Nevada (OH) post office.

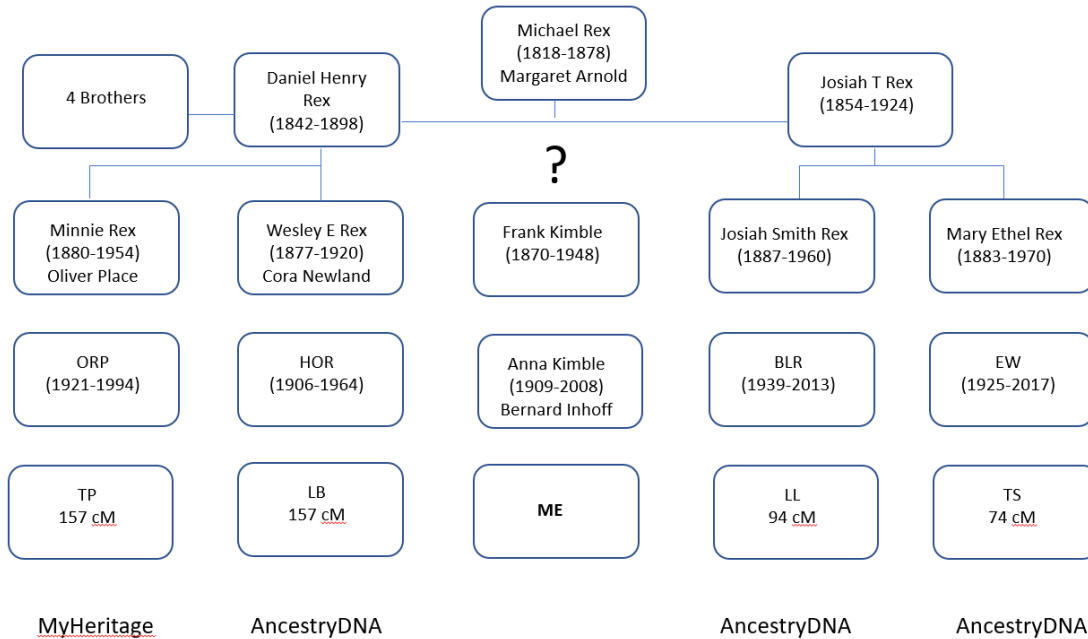
When we look at these locations on a map we see that Tod Township and Nevada, Wyandot, Ohio are only two miles apart, placing the Kimble and Rex families near each other in 1870.

As we look at other members of the Michael Rex family we see that daughter Almira Rex married Joseph Kimble, the younger brother of Anna Marie Kimble. Michael's son, Lebrite Rex married Amanda Billings, the younger sister of Anna Marie Kimble's mother, Sarah Jane Billings.

The Kimble and Rex families lived close to each other in 1870 and clearly knew each other as indicted by the marriages.

Evaluation of 4 DNA Matches

The following chart focuses on four significant DNA matches who are descendants of Michael Rex and Margaret Arnold.



In evaluating possible relationships between Frank Kimble and this Rex family I have identified 5 possibilities:

1. **Daniel Henry Rex** is the father of Frank Kimble, making TP and LB 1/2 Second Cousins to me. LL and TS share MRCA (most recent common ancestor) Michael and Margaret - 2nd great grandparents - making matches 3rd cousins
2. **Josiah T Rex** is the father of Frank Kimble - reversing the relationships above.
3. One of Daniel and Josiah's four brothers is the father - making Michael and Margaret MRCA - and all matches 3C
4. **Michael Rex** is the father - making all matches 1/2 2nd cousins, once removed.
5. A brother of Michael Rex is the father - making all matches 3C 1R

A group of genetic genealogists led by Blaine Bettinger have been gathering data on the length of DNA matches (measured in centimorgans – cM) and confirmed family relationships, such as 2nd cousins. For each relationship, they have calculated an average cM length with a range of cM around the average. See the appendix for links to this research.

More recent research and data analysis has given us a grouping of possible relationships at a given cM length, and more recently, a probability associated with different relationships. For example, a match at 150 cM could be one of the following relationships, each with an associated probability:

While there is a 53.6% likelihood that the relationship is a ½ 2nd cousin, 2nd cousin once removed, ½ first cousin 2R or a 1st cousin 3R, there is less than a one percent chance that the relationship could be a 4th cousin.

This data then gives us a way to evaluate each of the five possible relationships identified above.

For each hypothesis we must calculate what my relationship is with each of the four matches. As indicated above, if Daniel Henry Rex were the

father of Frank Kimble, TP and LB would be my ½ 2nd cousins and LL and TS would be 3rd cousins. Completing these calculations for each of the five hypotheses gives us the following table:

Rex Hypotheses		LB	TP	LL	TS
	largest match:	157	157	94	74
1	Daniel Henry Rex is Frank's father	1/2 2C	1/2 2C	3C	3C
2	Josiah T Rex is the father	3C	3C	1/2 2C	1/2 2C
3	brother of DHR and JTR is father	3C	3C	3C	3C
4	Michael Rex is the father	1/2 2C1R	1/2 2C1R	1/2 2C1R	1/2 2C1R
5	Brother of Michael Rex is FK father	3C1R	3C1R	3C1R	3C1R

Leah Larkin, who blogs as TheDNAGeek, has written a series of blog posts titled “Science the Heck out of Your DNA” in which she outlines the process to take this data along with the associated probabilities discussed above – to calculate the relative likelihood of each hypothesis. She also offers a link to an online tool which will do the statistical calculations (see appendix for link).

The results of the calculations are listed in the following table:

Hypothesis		Odds
1	Daniel Henry Rex is Frank's father	158.2
2	Josiah T Rex is the father	9.7
3	brother of DHR and JTR is father	12.5
4	Michael Rex is the father	12.5
5	Brother of Michael Rex is the father	1

The report also indicates that the relative probability of Hypothesis 1 is 81.6% and the odds at 158 are 12.6 times more likely than the next closest possibility.

Conclusion

One of the most confident conclusions from this data is that the father of Frank Kimble is not someone other than Michael Rex or one of his sons (H5). There is less than ½ of 1 percent chance that the data supports this option. It is highly probable that Daniel Henry Rex is the father, although we need to continue evaluating the other data as well as any subsequent developments.

Interestingly, Michael and Margaret Rex, along with several members of their family moved from Crawford County to Allen County in the late 1800's and settled in south east part of the county near Harrod. Michael died in 1878 and is buried in the Mt. Zion cemetery off of RTE 117 close to the Auglaize County line. Margaret died the following year. Daniel Henry Rex died in 1898 and is buried in the same cemetery. Many members of this Rex family continue to live in Allen County.

Appendix

References

Blaine Bettinger's [The Genetic Genealogist](#) website, especially the [Shared cM project](#). The charts are very helpful in determining the possible relationship with a DNA match.

- <https://thegeneticgenealogist.com>
- <https://thegeneticgenealogist.com/2017/08/26/august-2017-update-to-the-shared-cm-project/>

The DNA Painter's [Shared cM Project page](#) offers a visualization tool. Enter the length of a match – and it will display a range of possible relationships with probabilities associated with each.

- <https://dnainter.com/tools/sharedcmv4>

Leah Larkin's website, TheDnaGeek has a blog in which Leah writes about genetic genealogy. She has worked actively with Blaine Bettinger to analyze the results of the shared centimorgan project (see above) and to develop the probabilities of relationships between specific match sizes (how many centimorgans) and possible relationships (such as 2nd cousin).

- Her 6 part blog post titled: "Science the Heck Out of Your DNA" offers cutting edge ways to help analyze matches and evaluate possible relationships. You can read the first post in this series here: <http://thednageek.com/science-the-heck-out-of-your-dna-part-1/>.
- In the 5th post in this series, Leah refers to a Probability Calculator on the DNA Painter website and offers an example of how to evaluate and rank multiple hypothetical relationships. Link to the Probability Calculator: [https://dnainter.com/tools/prob2?m=\[\]](https://dnainter.com/tools/prob2?m=[])

Michael Rex (1818-1878)

Michael Rex was born in Cumberland County, PA on 1 May 1818. He married **Margaret Rebecca Arnold** on 25 March 1839 in Carlisle, PA. Between 1850 and 1860 the family moved to Crawford County, PA. Michael and Margaret had 6 sons and 5 daughters. In 1870 they were living in Antrim Township, Wyandot County, Ohio. Sometime in the next few years the family relocated to Allen County, Ohio and settled near Harrod. Michael died 14 October 1878. Margaret died 12 August 1879.

Daniel Henry Rex was born 15 March 1842 in Cumberland County, PA. On 31 October 1867 he married **Matilda Claybaugh**, who died in 1873. He then married **Nancy Vermillion** in 1874 in Allen County. He died in Lima, Ohio on 20 April 1898.

ANOTHER VETERAN,

**Daniel H. Rex, Died at the Home
of His Daughter.**

**Funeral to be Held from Mt. Zion Church
This Morning.**

Daniel H. Rex, aged 56 years, a veteran of the late war, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Eda Copeland, 491 south Central avenue, Wednesday, death resulting from lung trouble after an illness of a year's duration.

The deceased was born in Cumberland county, Pa., March 15th, 1842. During the war he served in Co. B of the 45th regiment, O. V. I. He is survived by six children, five brothers and three sisters. Two of his sisters are Mesdames J. H. Miller and F. M. Cavins and one brother is W. M. Rex, all of this city.

The funeral cortege will leave the residence at 8 o'clock this morning and the services and interment will occur at Mt. Zion Church east of this city.

Daniel Henry Rex can be found in my Ancestry family tree: *Rex Family Tree – Crawford County Ohio* at this link:

<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/112226331/person/250096865272/facts>